

DRAWING AMENDMENTS:

The attached sheet of drawing include changes to FIG. 5 correcting various informalities. This sheet, which includes FIG. 5, replaces the original sheet including FIG. 5.

REMARKS

Claims 12-18 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 1-7, 12-18, 27-31 and 34, at paragraph 2 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,594,454 ("Schuster"). Claims 1-7, 27-31 and 34 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejections of these claims moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the remaining rejections.

None of the cited references, including Schuster, disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 12. For example, Schuster does not disclose that when a call received at a telecommunications gateway (TCG) associated with a called telephone number is not a VDN call, the call is connected to a telephone associated with the called telephone number, as recited in claim 12. In contrast to claim 12, Schuster discloses an architecture for a central office using Internet Protocol technology. *Schuster*, col. 1, lines 7-9. That is, the teaching of Schuster relates to telephony systems and methods for a use at a central office and does not relate to user devices such as a telephone, or a telecommunications gateway associated with a telephone number. Thus, Schuster does not disclose that when a call received at a telecommunications gateway (TCG) associated with a called telephone number is not a VDN call, the call is connected to a telephone associated with the called telephone number, as recited in claim 12. Hence, claim 12 is allowable.

Claims 13-18 depend from claim 12, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, Schuster fails to disclose at least one element of each of 13-18. Accordingly, claims 13-18 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 12.

Claims 23-26 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 8-11, 23-26, 32 and 33, at paragraph 4 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Schuster in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,597,686 ("Smyk"). Claims 8-11, 32 and 33 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejections of these claims moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the remaining rejections.

Claims 23-26 depend from claim 12. None of the cited references, including Schuster and Smyk, disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 12. For example, Schuster does not disclose that when a call received at a telecommunications gateway (TCG) associated with a called telephone number is not a VDN call, the call is connected to a telephone associated with the called telephone number, as recited in claim 12. In contrast to claim 12, Schuster discloses an architecture for a central office using Internet Protocol technology. *Schuster*, col. 1, lines 7-9. That is, the teaching of Schuster relates to telephony systems and methods for a use at a central office and does not relate to user devices such as a telephone, or a telecommunications gateway associated with a telephone number. Thus, Schuster does not disclose that when a call received at a telecommunications gateway (TCG) associated with a called telephone number is not a VDN call, the call is connected to a telephone associated with the called telephone number, as recited in claim 12.

Smyk also does not disclose that when a call received at a telecommunications gateway (TCG) associated with a called telephone number is not a VDN call, the call is connected to a telephone associated with the called telephone number, as recited in claim 12. In contrast to claim 12, Smyk discloses an Internet telephony gateway for use at a communication service provider. For example, Smyk discloses that “Internet telephony gateways allow parties that only subscribe to ‘plain old telephone service’ (POTS), but do not have Internet equipped computers and an account with an Internet service provider, to talk to each other through the Internet”. *Smyk*, col. 1, lines 52-56 (emphasis added). Thus, Smyk does not disclose that when a call received at a telecommunications gateway (TCG) associated with a called telephone number is not a VDN call, the call is connected to a telephone associated with the called telephone number, as recited in claim 12. Hence, claim 12 is allowable.

Claims 23-26 depend from claim 12, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, the combination of Schuster and Smyk fails to disclose at least one element of each of claims 23-26. Accordingly, claims 23-26 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 12.

Claims 19-22 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 19-22, at paragraph 5 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Schuster in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,700,956 (“Chang”). Applicants respectfully traverse the remaining rejections.

Claims 19-22 depend from claim 12. None of the cited references, including Schuster and Chang, disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 12. For example, Schuster does not disclose that when a call received at a telecommunications gateway (TCG) associated with a called telephone number is not a VDN call, the call is connected to a telephone associated with the called telephone number, as recited in claim 12. In contrast to claim 12, Schuster discloses an architecture for a central office using Internet Protocol technology. *Schuster*, col. 1, lines 7-9. That is, the teaching of Schuster relates to telephony systems and methods for a use at a central office and does not relate to user devices such as a telephone, or a telecommunications gateway associated with a telephone number. Thus, Schuster does not disclose that when a call received at a telecommunications gateway (TCG) associated with a called telephone number is not a VDN call, the call is connected to a telephone associated with the called telephone number, as recited in claim 12.

Chang also does not disclose that when a call received at a telecommunications gateway (TCG) associated with a called telephone number is not a VDN call, the call is connected to a telephone associated with the called telephone number, as recited in claim 12. In contrast to claim 12, Chang discloses selectively providing telephone service that is either PSTN-based or Internet-based using a standard analog telephone circuit. *Chang*, Abstract. The apparatus of Chang permits an analog telephone to be toggled between an Internet-based mode and a PSTN-mode by inputting a predetermined sequence of DTMF digits. *Chang*, Abstract. However, Chang does not disclose that when a call received at a telecommunications gateway (TCG) associated with a called telephone number is not a VDN call, the call is connected to a telephone associated with the called telephone number, as recited in claim 12. Rather, Chang discloses toggling between Internet-based and PSTN-based modes of outgoing calls, not for rerouting incoming calls. Hence, claim 12 is allowable.

Claims 19-22 depend from claim 12, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, the combination of Schuster and Chang fails to disclose at least one element of each of 19-22. Accordingly, claims 19-22 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 12.

New claims 35-44 are Allowable

New claims 35-44 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 35-44 are allowable over the cited references. For example, none of the cited references, including Schuster, Smyk, and Chang, disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 35. For example, Schuster, Smyk, and Chang do not disclose a device including instructions executable by processing logic to determine whether an incoming call is a call to a remote destination device and instructions executable by the processing logic to connect the call to a telephone connected to the device when the incoming call is not a call to the remote destination device, as recited in claim 35. Hence, claim 35 is allowable.

Claims 36-44 depend from claim 35, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, the combination of Schuster, Smyk, and Chang fails to disclose at least one element of each of 36-44. Accordingly, claims 36-44 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 35.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have pointed out specific features of the claims not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the references applied in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the objections and rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims.

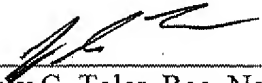
Any changes to the claims in this response, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



Jeffrey G. Toler, Reg. No. 38,342
Attorney for Applicant(s)
TOLER SCHAFFER, L.L.P.
8500 Bluffstone Cove, Suite A201
Austin, Texas 78759
(512) 327-5515 (phone)
(512) 327-5575 (fax)